



USDA Forest Service Resource Assistant Program

Position.

Umpqua National Forest Climate Cohort Resource Assistant

Duration. 8 Month Fellowship (32 weeks): Starting June 2023 – February 2024 (dates are dependent upon the start date)

Location.

Duty Station: Umpqua National Forest – Supervisor’s Office

Location: City, State – Roseburg Oregon

Address:

2900 Northwest Stewart Parkway

Roseburg, OR 97471

(541) 957-3200

Reports To.

The Umpqua National Forest Climate Cohort Resource Assistant (RA) will be mentored by the Forest Environmental Coordinator and Watershed Program Manager, with additional mentoring and field supervision from the Southwest Oregon ecologist and geneticist.

Job Overview

Provide a brief description of the role, what success in the position looks like, and how it fits into the Forest Service and/or unit overall.

The RA will assist the hydrology, ecology, planning and genetics programs on a range of tasks in both the field and in the office settings, depending on the interests of the individual. Field tasks would include assisting experimental set-up and data collection and executing monitoring. Office tasks would include data and information processing and analysis, and participation as a climate change specialist in planning climate change-adaptive restoration projects. All tasks will directly contribute to developing and implementing a climate change adaptation and mitigation strategy for the Umpqua National Forest.

A successful RA will:

- Engage with, and ask questions of, multiple specialists in different job titles and career stages
- Learn and implement field and office protocols (with guidance) and contribute high-quality data
- Independently troubleshoot technical and logistical difficulties



- Help incorporate climate adaptation into new and ongoing projects across disciplines

Responsibilities and Duties

In order of importance, provide a bullet point list of the responsibilities and essential duties of this job, including the travel percentage, if necessary.

Prioritization of responsibilities will depend on the candidate's interests and field conditions. Some duties will become higher priority at specific times of year, with most field work completed by around November.

Hydrology

- Access and potentially wade into streams and lakes and use specialized equipment to collect data for long-term stream temperature monitoring and real-time harmful algal bloom monitoring
- Walk and drive forest roads (open and closed) and take measurements related to sediment runoff and potential restoration needs with changing precipitation patterns

Ecology

- Identify and quantify plant species in burned areas (typically five years postfire) and in historical oak habitats or other non-forest habitats, using provided protocols.
- Carefully record data on paper or digital forms. Enter data into databases and check for errors. Participate in analyzing and interpreting data.

Planning

- Participate in meetings, gather and summarize information from reports and other sources, and develop visuals to support teams of specialists in prioritizing and developing climate change adaptation projects

Genetics

- Use mapping software to identify seed sources and design planting trials to help with assisted population migration
- Help lay out planting trial designs on the ground in burned areas, label, and plant trees
- Identify, locate (from very approximate location information), and take size and health measurements on five-needle pines in the field to help prioritize seed collection to develop populations resistant to the invasive white pine blister rust fungus
- Use mapping and database software to populate databases of genetic parent tree locations with climate variables to refine the characterization of seed source climates for reforestation locally and assisted migration trials

Occasional overnight travel (less than 5%) may be desired for efficient access to field sites. Camping gear can be available if necessary.

Qualifications



MANRRS

Provide a bullet point list of the qualifications that are necessary for someone to fill this position. Points you may wish to include are education level, major/degree, experience, specific skills, certifications and licenses, and physical abilities.

- College-level coursework in natural resources management and related fields including biology, ecology, hydrology or geography
- Driver's license and ability to operate 4WD or AWD vehicle on unpaved, steep, or narrow roads
- Experience with geographic information systems
- Ability to walk on steep slopes, over uneven ground, through shallow streams, and through brush, sometimes in hot, cold, or wet conditions; recognize and avoid hazards in forested areas, including some burned areas
- Ability to navigate to precise locations using GPS, map, and compass after initial training
- Ability to learn to identify plant species, including identifying and taking precautions against poison oak (field guides, in-person training, and other resources will be provided)
- Enthusiasm for learning about the ecosystems and administrative processes of the Umpqua National Forest
- Preference for candidates who have completed or are completing a bachelor's degree
- **Minimum Requirements**
 - Completion of 2 years at an accredited university, an Associate's degree, or higher
 - US citizenship or permanent residency. RAs must undergo a government background check if selected.
 - Participation in US Forest Service Orientation Training scheduled for June 2023